

Message Text

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D) LICENSING - INDIAN REP INTERVENTIONS ON LICENSING PRIMARILY HAVE RELATED TO NEED TO GIVE S&D TO LDCS, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR DOING SO. INDIA HAS STATED THAT GOI HAS SIMPLIFIED ITS LICENSING PROCEDURES AND WOULD EXPECT CREDIT FOR THESE ACTIONS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

E) ANTIDUMPING - GOI, WITH EGYPT, HAS BEEN A MAJOR FORCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANTIDUMPING SUBGROUP. THEY ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN GATT COMMITTEE ON ANTIDUMPING PRACTICES WORKING PARTY FOR LDC ACCESSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DUMPING CODE AND HAVE FORCEFULLY PRESSED FOR TRANSFER OF THIS WORK TO THE MTN. AT THE LAST NTM GROUP MEETING, INDIA FAILED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A NEW AGENDA ITEM TO REGISTER CONCRETE LDC PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS ON THE CODE BUT DID REQUEST THAT THE ITEM REMAIN ON THE AGENDA.

F) GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT - INDIA WAS A PRIMARY MOVER IN ESTABLISHING A SUBGROUP ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY, GENEVA REP WAS TOLD BY NEW DELHI TO BACK OFF FROM ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SUBGROUP. ON A GENERAL BASIS, INDIAN DEL HAS SUPPORTED US POSITION (LOW THRESHOLD, RESTRICTIONS ON SELECTIVE TENDERING, TRANSPARENCY THROUGH WIDE PUBLICITY). INDIAN REP HAS SUPPORTED IDEAS FOR S&D, ESPECIALLY ALLOWING LDCS TO DISCRIMINATE IN FAVOR OF EACH OTHER. INDIANS HAVE BALKED AT SUBGROUP REQUEST FOR NON-OECD COUNTRIES TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON CURRENT DOMESTIC PROCUREMENTS LAWS, REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES.

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G) CUSTOMS MATTERS- INDIANS RARELY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CUSTOMS MATTERS DISCUSSIONS, BUT HAVE STATED THAT GOI WOULD EXPECT COMPENSATION FOR HAVING ADOPTED CCCN.

5. INDIA HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN INSISTING THAT GSP BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED IN THE TARIFFS EXERCISE. WHILE THEY HAVE ESCHEWED MORE EXTREME POSITIONS SUCH AS COMPENSATION FOR GSP EROSION, THEY ARE TRYING TO PRESERVE THE OPTION OF REQUESTING IMPROVEMENTS ON GSP RATES AND TERMS OF ACCESS, AND ARE CONFOUNDED BY OUR REFUSAL TO DISCUSS GSP IN THE MTN. INDIA WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO LIMIT DC EXCEPTIONS ON PRODUCTS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO LDCS. PRIVATELY THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THEIR POSITION IN TARIFFS WILL BE DETERMINED BY DC RESPONSES TO ITS REQUESTS ON LEATHER/LEATHER PRODUCTS, MARINE PRODUCTS, AND SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (SEE TP REQUEST LIST).

6. TROPICAL PRODUCTS - DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LDC "END OF THE DAY" FORMULATION WAS FATHERED BY FORMER MTN AMB. CHADHA, INDIA HAS ENGAGED IN SERIOUS, BUT TIME CONSUMING, NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THIS IMPASSE. (SEE REFTELS B, C, AND D). INDIA HAS PUBLICLY TAKEN THE POSITION IN THE TPG THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE MTN, DELETING PREVIOUS REFERENCES TO "THE END OF THE DAY". PRESSURE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON INDIA TO REACH AGREEMENT IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS, (EXCHANGE OF CONCESSIONS BETWEEN US AND INDIA) UNDER THIS FORMULATION.

7. SAFEGUARDS - INDIAN DEL HAS TAKEN FAIRLY MODERATE STANCE, GENERALLY SUPPORTING MAIN LDC PROPOSALS (BRAZIL, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, NIGERIA) BUT NOT DOGMATICALLY. IT HAS INDICATED SOME RECEPTIVENESS TO U.S. SAFEGUARDS PROPOSAL, INCLUDING A POSITIVE COMMENT ON THE BENEFITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OF OPEN DOMESTIC PROCEDURES, BUT HAS NOT TAKEN ANY SUBSTANTIVE INITIATIVE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT US-INDIA BILATERAL SAFEGUARD ISSUES.

8. AGRICULTURE - INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS ARE DIRECTED MAINLY AT ACHIEVING COMMITMENTS ON FOOD AID AND, THUS, THEIR ONLY MAJOR STATEMENT IN ANY OF THE MTN AGRICULTURAL GROUPS CAME IN THE SUBGROUP ON GRAINS. IN THAT STATEMENT (MADE IN JANUARY 1976) INDIA SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESERVES AGREEMENT ON GRAINS WITH PRICES USED TO TRIGGER STOCKING AND DESTOCKING. INDIA PROPOSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SYSTEM PROVIDE FOR A DUAL MARKET WHICH WOULD SEPARATE LDCS AND DCS. EXPORTERS WOULD ALLOCATE SPECIFIC QUANTITIES FOR IMPORTING DCS AND FOR IMPORTING LDCS SO THAT COMPETITION WOULD ONLY OCCUR

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WITHIN EACH GROUP AND NOT BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS. IN THAT SAME STATEMENT, INDIA INDICATED IT COULD ACCEPT THE 30 MILLION TON RESERVE LEVEL PROPOSED BY THE U.S. ALTHOUGH IT FELT LEVEL SHOULD PROBABLY BE HIGHER. INDIA DID NOT SUBMIT ANY NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE GROUP AGRICULTURE PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS BUT INDIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REQUEST/OFFER EXERCISE AS IT HAS ACTIVELY DONE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

9. FRAMEWORK - INDIA HAS BEEN ONE OF THE LEADING LDC ADVOCATES THAT THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS THEY HAVE DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS DISADVANTAGE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AS A MEASURE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT INDIA HAS ATTACHED TO THE FG, ITS HIGHEST LEVEL OFFICIAL DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MTN, PREM KUMAR, CAME TO GENEVA FROM DELHI IN FEBRUARY 1977 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIAL, SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OF THE MTN FRAMEWORK GROUP (FG), AND AMB. LALL CAME FROM BRUSSELS AS WELL. WHILE STRONGLY SUPPORTING BRAZILIAN FG INITIATIVES, INDIA BELIEVES THE BRAZILIAN PROPOSALS CURRENTLY ON THE TABLE DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH IN MANY RESPECTS. INDIA WANTS LEGALIZATION OF PREFERENTIAL INTRA-LDC TRADE TO PROVIDE A SECURE AND STABLE BASIS FOR THE BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROTOCOL OF THE 16. INDIA HAS STATED THAT AN ENABLING CLAUSE ADDED TO ARTICLE I TO PERMIT PREFERENTIAL RATES AND GSP WOULD NOT, BY ITSELF, BE SUFFICIENT; THAT SOME MEASURE OF INCREASED SECURITY OF GSP WAS

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ALSO "A MINIMUM THEY WOULD SETTLE FOR". CONCERNING INTRA-DC PREFERENCES, E.G., THE EC, INDIA HAS PROPOSED THE PRINCIPLE THAT "NO DEVELOPED COUNTRY SHALL PLACE THE TRADE OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AT A DISADVANTAGE

COMPARED TO THE TRADE OF ANOTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRY",
AND SUGGESTED THERE SHOULD BE A BODY IN THE GATT TO
KEEP DC PREFERENTIAL SYSTEMS UNDER REVIEW. INDIA HAS
ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MEASURES AIDING THE RE-DEPLOYMENT
FROM DCS OF INDUSTRIES IN WHICH LDCS HAVE THE COMPARATIVE
ADVANTAGE HAS RELEVANCE TO GATT, I.E., ARTICLES
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